

### REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 9, 2007, the Examiner imposed a restriction requirement as follows:

Invention I (claims 1-2, 4, 7-8, 11-12, and 14-15) drawn to a clamping system including plural end supports, one or more coupling units having a single pivot ball and first and second arms;

Invention II (claims 21, 25-26, and 29-31) drawn to a clamping system including plural end supports, one or more external force applying units, and one or more lockable elbow units;

Invention III (claims 40-42, 45, and 61) drawn to a clamping system including one or more force applying units, one or more coupling units having a single pivot ball, a first arm and a second arm; and

Invention IV (claims 52-55) drawn to a clamping system including a plurality of force applying units, a plurality of pivoting means arranged in a chain having rotational means and gripping means.

Applicants hereby elect the claims associated with Invention I (claims 1-2, 4, 7-8, 11-12, and 14-15) without traverse for prosecution at this time.

Claims 21, 25-26, 29-31, 40-42, 45, 52-55, and 61 are withdrawn from consideration, without prejudice to the possibility of reinstatement during the

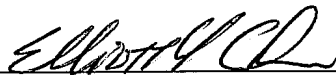
prosecution of the subject application, and without prejudice to the filing of subsequent continuation or divisional applications.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-2, 4, 7-8, 11-12, and 14-15 are now in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining matters that may be handled by telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 11-8-07

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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